

# Duxbury Boys Stranded At High Pines During Storm

The nor-easter that blew in several inches of rain and snow late Sunday night and early Monday morning left nine Duxbury youngsters stranded at High Pines, where they had gone Sunday morning on a "camping trip." All hands were brought home safely. They deserve praise for the resourcefulness they showed when the blizzard lowered on them while they were asleep in their pup tents. The group Winsor White and Arthur Jokinen brought back in a jeep were quite surprised, in fact, that anyone was worrying about them. Another group, which George Butler, Dr. Starr and George Scott found in a car bogged down on the dunes, were happy indeed to see the rescue party. Here's the story as Don Brock tells it:

"Everything would have been swell for our two-night winter trip if we hadn't been 'rescued.' There we were, warm and cozy, eating peanuts around the hot stove in the old Randall house at High Pines when in came two jeep loads of grown-ups and told us to go home as our parents were worried about us. It was tough to have to go home as we were warm and had lots of food and were having a wonderful time. None of the four left in the house wanted to go home.

Just as we were set to go, two Coast Guardsmen from the Gurnet walked in to see if everything was all right. They said my Dad had asked them to drop in on their mail trip to see if we needed anything. It seemed to me that we were better off than they were in some ways. We were warm and had lots of good hot food. They said they had no power, no telephone, and their car was stuck up by the lighthouse and they had walked down to see us. My Dad had called the Green Harbor Coast Guard shortwave radio and they had gotten the message through. We left them at the house getting warmed up at the stove, heating coffee and eating our doughnuts.

## Inside Story

"Three of us went camping at High Pines last February when we stayed two nights. We slept in sleeping bags in pup tents and had a wonderful time. This year the same three—myself, Teddy Seaver and Dick Metheany decided to do it

again. Saturday night we packed our sleeping bags, tents, ponchos and cook kits, knives, hatchets and everything we needed. Sunday morning Mother and Dad drove us and Charles Eddy to the end of the bridge where Gordon Cushing was waiting for us, and we dumped our stuff in his beach buggy and got to High Pines before 9:30 a. m. Gordon went back to meet Jerry Nightingale, Peter Scott, Bruce Eyans and Tommy Kirkpatrick. We put up our tents in a sheltered spot on high ground about 50 yards from high tide. The water came in high because of the storm but we had no trouble from sea water. We got the tents up before it started to rain. Lucky, because the ground under them was dry. There was plenty of wood and we kept a good fire going all day. We spent most of the day outdoors getting wood and keeping the fire going and fooling around. It was raining hard and the wind was blowing a gale. We got wet but every once in a while we went to the house to dry off. The other boys had made a fire in the stove. We got hungry at noon so we ate our lunch in the tents. We had tuna fish sandwiches, peanut butter and jelly and raw carrots and pop. We took a cold lunch so we wouldn't have to cook over an open fire in the rain. We spent most of the afternoon in the house getting dry and playing games. Once we went to see the waves and the ocean.

About 5:30 p.m. it got dark so we went to bed in the tents. Teddy Seaver and I were in my tent. We cooked on a Sterno stove. I had a lamb chop and frozen frenchfries and Teddy had sandwich steaks and french fries.

The wind and waves were loud and the rain made a lot of noise. Once in a while it hailed. About 8 p. m. Teddy woke up with one end of the tent down on his face from the wind. He lit the candle and fixed the tent pole. A couple of minutes later the other end came down on me. I fixed that up and checked the tent pegs. A little later we heard the boys in the other tent talking. We asked them what was up and they said their tent had blown over and they were going to the house with their sleeping bags and blankets. About 11 p. m. thunder woke us up, but we went right back to sleep. We were warm and cozy.

About seven in the morning the boys came over from the house, woke us up and told us we had a blizzard. There was no snow in the tent but a lot outside. Up at the house they had a good fire going in the stove. They told us they had slept cold as the wind blew through the holes in the walls. I think we were warmer in our tent. We cooked our breakfast on the stove. I had sausage, eggs, toast and cocoa. Teddy had the same except bacon instead of sausage.

Peter Scott had to get back to school and asked Gordon to take him in. Three of the others decided to go in with them. Gordon and Jerry were to come back and stay with us. The six of us wanted to stay as we had plenty of food and wood and were having a great time. We would go home Tuesday.

But Gordon's beach buggy got stuck in the snow and sand, so he and Jerry walked in leaving the three others in the car where they got cold waiting. Dr. Starr, George Scott and Mike Butler found the boys in the jeep and took them to Dr. Starr's house where they warmed up before a fire."

"I plan to go again next year in February."

#### Other Groups

Your Clipper reporter arrived just in time to see Dr. Starr, George Scott and George Butler taking three of the boys into the house—Charles Eddy, Peter Scott and Dick Metheany. Officer Earl Chandler had meanwhile driven Jerry Nightingale and Gordon Cushing from the Willis Bagley house at the end of Powder Point to their homes. They, like two of the boys who had remained in the car, were cold and wet. The wind was so strong at times it blew Nightingale and Metheany into the water after they had abandoned the car. Peter Scott was also sopping wet from the waist down when we saw him.

While Jerry Nightingale and Gordon Cushing trudged through the dunes which had been completely washed away in places, leaving cut-throughs from the outer beach to the bay side as wide as 20 or 30 yards in places. Eddy, Scott and Metheany started the car by shorting the ignition and bundled up in blankets while waiting for a rescue party. Winsor White and Arthur Jokinen drove the jeep which brought back Don Brock, Teddy Seaver, Bruce Evans and Tommy Kirkpatrick. George Butler, accompanied by Dr. Starr and George Scott, almost drove past Gordon Cushing's car, for the three boys inside were huddled on the floor. All three of them were chilled. But after they warmed up before a log fire in Dr. Starr's house, they were back to normal. Do they plan any more winter camping trips? "I don't know why not," one of them said.